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SoutteReview, Issue 7

Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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SoutteReview

Newsletter of The Lamar Soutter Library • University of Massachusetts Medical School • Issue 7

Alumni / Parents Day



A student and his parents take in a display.

The Lamar Soutter Library was a featured department to visit during Alumni/Parents Day on October 3. Exhibits ranged from materials preservation to outreach programs that the Library has recently developed. Director Elaine Martin, along with many other members of the Library staff, participated in this event. Besides playing host to a number of alumni, the Library welcomed hundreds of parents, who came in and saw their son's or daughter's "home away from home." Many students offered their parents a personalized tour of the Library. Rick LeMay (Class of '84) escorted his family on one such tour and stated that "a lot of changes have taken place in the Library" since he graduated. Among other points of personal interest, Dr. LeMay showed his family the study carrel that he used during his pre-clinical years of 1981-82.

Many of the displays were located in the Rare Books Room, whose exit led outside to tents, where a cookout was prepared for students, parents, and staff. The Library staff provided demonstrations of various databases, such as *MD Consult* and *MICROMEDEX*. Reference Librarian Jim Comes assisted a parent in retrieving a full-text article from *Ovid*.

To sum up, parents in attendance appeared to be deeply interested in the services and facilities of the Library, while alumni were impressed with the many changes that have occurred there since they were students. Some alumni were amazed that the Library has the same orange carpet that greeted users on the day that it opened its doors in 1976. ("I'm surprised that you *STILL* have that carpet, observed one alumna.") It is hoped that present and future funding and donations will allow the installation of a new carpet in the not distant future. ❄️

New Photocopy Service Offered

UMMS faculty, researchers, and students are invited to make use of our new Pull-and-Copy service, whereby Library staff retrieve journals and books from the stacks and make photocopies of requested pages for a nominal fee. Turn-around time is usually no more than 24 hours for requests received Monday-Thursday, and the cost is only \$5.00 for a 20-page article to be copied. (An additional 20 cents per page is charged for any request that exceeds 20 pages.) Yellow request forms are available at the Circulation Desk, or by phoning Jeff Long (856-2080). ❄️

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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 7:00 am - 11:30 pm

Friday 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am - 11:30 pm

Hours are subject to change due to exams, holidays, and weather conditions. Please call (508) 856-2511 for current library hours.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Circulation

(508) 856-6099

Reference Desk

856-6857

Document Delivery

856-2029

Interlibrary Borrowing

856-3302

Library Administration

856-2205

Government Documents

856-3290 or 856-2473

Journal Information

856-2367

Acquisitions

856-1041

Library Staff Bolstered by New Health Professional

A recent addition to our staff, Javier Crespo, directs HealthNet, which is a new outreach project at the Library. Funded by a grant for two years, the program delivers health care information to medical professionals, as well as to the general public. (See accompanying article for further details.)

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, N.J., Javier is the youngest of six, whose parents made a new life for themselves after leaving their village in Puerto Rico. Javier, who had earlier considered a career as a priest, once spent more than a year in a remote region of Guatemala, where he worked with the Q'eq'chi Indians as the supervisor of six schools scattered over

the mountainous countryside. Though fluent in Spanish, he needed a translator, while he gradually mastered more of the natives' Mayan language and also learned more about their culture.

After graduating from DePaul University in Chicago, Javier completed his Masters in Library Information Systems at the University of Illinois and worked at their school of public health. There he met Elaine Martin, now the director of our library. Impressed with his abilities, she eventually recruited him to Lamar Soutter, soon after her arrival at UMass in 1998.

While at school in the Midwest, Javier met his wife, Lea. A poet and teacher of creative writing, she is busily completing her doctorate in English at the University of

Illinois, and will then be able to join her husband in Worcester. They especially enjoyed their recent European tour, during which they were hosted by friends and family in England and Greece.

In his spare time, Javier enjoys keeping fit at the gym, and he also takes pleasure in playing tennis and discovering New England by bicycle. A N.Y. Yankees fan and an avid cook, Javier specializes in Caribbean fare. (His banana muffins are the stuff of legend.)

As for his new position, Javier greatly enjoys the openness and camaraderie at our library, and he is particularly excited about the prospect of moving beyond the usual academic patron base, in order to serve an even larger community. ✨

HealthNet: A Versatile Resource

Further expanding its outreach to the UMass community and to the Commonwealth, The Lamar Soutter Library has begun a technology-based project known as UMass HealthNet. This project has two components that serve UMass students and faculty, as well as the public: the hardware/access component and the website component. The former provides computers and connectivity to affiliate and residency sites. The latter establishes a consumer health information website designed for residents of central and western Massachusetts.

While these components of UMass HealthNet are geared toward seemingly disparate user groups, both of these grant elements converge where information is needed. Physicians and residents whose consultation needs with patients demand current, appropriate medical information are well served by such electronic connectivity. Furthermore, patients visiting selected sites or who already have Internet access can go to the HealthNet website and locate medical and health-based information.

With the help of the department

of Family and Community Health and the Department of Clinical Affiliations, two pilot sites have been selected, for this project's initial implementation: Fitchburg Family Practice and Tri-River Health Center in Uxbridge. Alongside these institutions, UMMHC's Information Services department is partnering to assist with installations and connectivity issues. Training will be offered to faculty and residents needing assistance in gathering clinically relevant literature. Users will be able to download and print full-text articles that are available through the Internet or licensed through the Lamar Soutter Library.

The need for locally-based patient information drives the UMass HealthNet's website component. The website will be developed through the contributions of medical topics generated by UMMS/UMMHC faculty and physicians. The website will also feature and clearly present patient resources from other well-known health information websites.

Another public access feature of the project calls for touch-screen

kiosks to be deployed in waiting rooms and other locations. The kiosks will increase the availability of health information resources to greater audiences. Future elements of the website that are being explored are directories and a calendar of health-related events occurring throughout the central and western regions of the state.

This project represents a high level of cooperation and collaboration between various units of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, UMass Memorial Care and beyond. The project's advisory board brings expertise from physicians, nurses, administrators from health centers, public health directors, and information services executives.

The far-reaching aspects of UMass HealthNet continue the Library's support of the UMass mission of health education and public service. The HealthNet website can be accessed at <http://healthnet.umassmed.edu>. For more information on the UMass HealthNet project, contact Javier Crespo at (508) 856-2223 or at javier.crespo@umassmed.edu. ✨

A Dose of Reading:



Sensory Deprivation: Hearing

■ Abrams, Charlotte. *The Silents* (1996) The author describes the rigors of growing up in Chicago during the Depression with her sister and two deaf parents; their challenges only intensified with the unexpected deterioration of the mother's eyesight.

■ Golan, Lew. *Reading Between the Lips: A Totally Deaf Man Makes It in the Mainstream* (1995). Having lost his hearing from spinal meningitis at age five, Golan went on to an inspiring series of jobs as an academic book editor, sportswriter, and marketing executive.

■ Heppner, Cheryl. *Seeds of Disquiet: One Deaf Woman's Experience* (1992). The courageous story of her overcoming spinal meningitis as a child, two strokes as a young woman, and the difficulties of living in a soundless world.

■ Kisor, Henry. *What's That Pig Outdoors? A Memoir of Deafness* (1990). Twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism, Kisor here tells of how he has coped with deafness since the age of three years old.

■ Laborit, Emmanuelle. *The Cry of the Gull* (1998). In this slim memoir, this acclaimed French actress expresses her years of frustration and success as a champion of rights for the hearing-impaired.

■ Sidransky, Ruth. *In Silence: Growing Up in a Hearing World* (1990). Recounts her youth growing up as a deaf Jewish child in New York City.

■ Spradley, Thomas S. *Deaf Like Me* (1985). Having contracted Rubella while pregnant, Lynn Spradley's mother learns about her daughter's special needs.

■ Walker, Lou Ann. *A Loss for Words: The Story of Deafness in a Family* (1987). Walker movingly tells how, before entering Harvard, she grew up in Indiana, serving as ears for her deaf parents.

■ West, Paul. *Words for a Deaf Daughter* (1970; reissued 1993). This is a heartfelt tribute to his daughter, for whom the author built a basement model of the Milky Way.

■ Whitestone, Heather and Angela Elwell Hunt (1997). *Listening With My Heart*. Miss America 1995 tells of her coming of age in Alabama, including her struggle to learn ballet despite her hearing impairment.

■ Wright, David. *Deafness* (1969; issued in U.S. 1994). An account by the noted British poet and critic of his experience of going deaf at age seven while growing up in South Africa. ❄️

Our New Documentalist

Roger Kerr has been hired to replace David Pietrantoni in Government Documents. Kerr had worked at The Lamar Soutter Library for more than three years prior to his accepting his new position.

One of the special projects that previously involved him here was the sending of replacement materials to the U.S. Government Documents Department at Boston Public Library's central facility, after a flood had destroyed most of their collection. Before coming to UMass, Roger worked across the city, at the Dinand Library of Holy Cross College, serving as book stacks and repair supervisor.

Currently, Roger is in the midst of a very lengthy process of weeding print and microfiche materials that are no longer relevant to the Library's Government Documents collection. Roger states that he believes the role of the Government Documents Librarian is to help fulfill the program's mandate of making all Federal information available to the public, free of charge and in a readily accessible manner. ❄️

Thank You, Donors!

We wish to thank the following individuals for their donations of books and journal issues to The Lamar Soutter Library during 1999:

Leslie Berg, Robert Bock, Howard Bueller, Herbert Dean, Stephen Fish, David Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Geller, Marvin Goldstein, H. Maurice Goodman, Burte Guterman, John Herrmann, Norio Higano, Harriet Kay, Aaron Lazare, Arthur Like, Katherine Luzuriaga, Gregor McGregor, Deborah Markowitz, Sandy Marks, John Moran, Michele Myers, Alex Rosenberg, Carolyn Schwartz, Karlene Schwartz, Vivek Somnotra, H. Brownell Wheeler, Karen Wiss, Merrill Wolf.

The Library accepts offers of materials in good condition, published primarily during the past ten years, for possible addition to the main collection. Older items, with special historical significance and value, may be offered for possible addition to the Rare Books Room. Financial donations are also welcomed.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ingrassia, Assistant Director for Technical Services, at (508) 856-1041. ❄️

SoutteReview

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Harrison's Online is Here!

In the last issue of *SoutteReview*, we were happy to inform you of the new databases on the Library website. We are now pleased to tell you about the newest database available to the Soutter library community: *Harrison's Online*.

Harrison's Principles of Medicine has long been recognized as the leading textbook on the subject of medicine. Clinicians and students use it extensively as an authoritative source. Prior to going online, the textbook version of *Harrison's* was revised every two years. But, of course, information in the clinical sciences changes rapidly. Now, computer technology has partnered with medical advancement to give us *Harrison's Online*.

This new database is much more than a constantly updated medical text. It contains many features that allow the user to navigate the database with ease. *Harrison's Online* incorporates a readily available table of contents and a searchable database to quickly allow the user to gain information from the electronic textbook. However, there is much more! The user has access to color atlases in dermatology, endoscopic

findings, fundoscopic examination, and hematology. Clinical updates in *Harrison's Online* comprise an entire section. Updates are posted monthly, and the user can choose to view the updates by topic or by date of the posting. Users may access the Clinical Trials section pertaining to topics covered by *Harrison's Principles of Medicine*. One can browse the Clinical Trials Table of Contents by date of publication, by topic, or by the Parts of *Harrison's*. Another enhancement to this database is the Concise Reviews and Editorials option. Here, the user can get the big picture in fewer words on a variety of clinical topics, as well as the points of view of the *Harrison's* editorial staff.

The newest feature of *Harrison's Online* database can be most useful to students and clinicians taking board review exams. There is now a section of the database called *Harrison's Pretest Questions*. There are currently ten areas of focus for these questions. Among the areas of concentration: cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases, neurological conditions, and endocrine disorders. One can also access in the appendix *Laboratory Values of Clinical Importance*.

According to the work's editorial staff, "*Harrison's Online* cuts through the glut of online medical information to give you relevant, current, and practical information that will help you diagnose and manage your next case." It is a great complement to the other Lamar Soutter Library databases recently added to the Library website. ❄️

The Library Collection: Help Us Help You

The Lamar Soutter Library welcomes and encourages suggestions for books to be added to the Library's collection. Request forms are available at the Circulation Desk or on the Library's webpage at <http://library.umassmed.edu/MatReq.html>.

Items are added to the collection in support of the mission of the Library and its written Collection Development Policy, as the budget allows.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ingrassia, Assistant Director for Library Technical Services, at (508) 856-1041 or by e-mail at: Barbara.Ingrassia@umassmed.edu.